

**Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application.

**Listing of Claims**

1-50. (Cancelled)

51. (Previously Presented) A base for a food container, comprising:  
a bottom having a periphery; and  
a side wall upwardly extending around the periphery of the bottom, the side wall defining an interior of the base, the side wall including

a plurality of first rib units formed in the side wall upwardly extending from the bottom, each of the plurality of first rib units including a first outward projecting rib extending away from the interior and a first inward projecting rib extending towards the interior, the first inward projecting rib being formed within the first outward projecting rib, and

a plurality of second rib units formed in the side wall upwardly extending from the bottom, each of the plurality of second rib units being disposed adjacent one of the plurality of first rib units, each of the plurality of second rib units including a second inward projecting rib extending towards the interior, the second inward projecting rib being shorter than the first inward projecting rib.

52. (Previously Presented) The base of claim 51 wherein the first outward projecting rib extends into the bottom.

53. (Previously Presented) The base of claim 51 wherein the first inward projecting rib extends into the bottom.

54. (Previously Presented) The base of claim 51 wherein the first outward projecting rib is disposed at a first angle relative to a vertical axis and the first inward projecting rib

is disposed at a second angle relative to the vertical axis, the first angle and the second angle being unequal.

55. (Previously Presented) The base of claim 54 wherein the second angle is greater than the first angle.

56. (Previously Presented) The base of claim 51 wherein the first outward extending rib is at a first depth in the side wall and the first inward extending rib is at a second depth in the side wall, said first depth is different than said second depth.

57. (Previously Presented) The base of claim 51 wherein the outward projecting rib extends into the bottom a first distance and the first inward projecting rib extends into the bottom a second distance, the first distance being greater than the second distance.

58. (Previously Presented) The base of claim 51 wherein the first outward projecting rib and the first inward projecting rib extend into the bottom, the depth of the first inward projecting rib extending into the bottom being greater than the depth of the first outward projecting rib extending into the bottom.

59. (Previously Presented) The base of claim 51 wherein the first outward projecting rib extends to a first height in the side wall and the first inward projecting rib extends to a second height in the side wall, the first height exceeding the second height.

60. (Previously Presented) The base of claim 51 wherein the side wall is disposed at an angle ranging from about 5° to about 44° relative to a vertical axis.

61. (Previously Presented) The base of claim 51 wherein the first inward projecting rib is disposed at a first angle relative to a vertical axis and second inward projecting rib is disposed at second angle relative to the vertical axis, the first angle being different than the second angle.

62. (Currently Amended) The base of claim 51 further comprising a plurality of third rib units formed in the side wall upwardly extending from the bottom, each of the plurality of third rib units being positioned adjacent one of the plurality of second rib units, each of the plurality of third rib units including a second outward projecting rib extending away from the interior and a third inward projecting rib extending towards the interior, the third inward projecting rib being formed within the second outward projecting rib, the second outward projecting rib being shorter than the first outward projecting rib.

63. (Previously Presented) The base of claim 62 wherein the second outward projecting rib extends into the bottom.

64. (Previously Presented) The base of claim 62 wherein the third inward projecting rib extends into the bottom.

65. (Previously Presented) The base of claim 62 wherein the second outward projecting rib is disposed at an first angle relative to a vertical axis and the third inward projecting rib is disposed at a second angle relative to the vertical axis, the first angle being unequal to the second angle.

66. (Previously Presented) The base of claim 65 wherein the second angle is greater than the first angle.

67. (Previously Presented) The base of claim 62 wherein the second outward projecting rib is disposed at third depth in the side wall and the third inward projecting rib is disposed at a fourth depth in the side wall, the third depth being different than the fourth depth.

68. (Previously Presented) The base of claim 62 wherein the second outward projecting rib and the third inward projecting rib extend into the bottom, the second

outward projecting rib extending into the bottom farther than the third inward projecting rib.

69. (Previously Presented) The base of claim 68 wherein the height of the third inward projecting rib in the bottom is greater than the height of the second outward projecting rib in the bottom.

70. (Previously Presented) The base of claim 62 wherein the second outward projecting rib extends a first vertical distance up the side wall and the third inward projecting rib extends a second vertical distance up the side wall, the first vertical distance being greater than the second vertical distance.

71. (Previously Presented) The base of claim 51 wherein a width of the first outward projecting rib is greater than the width of the first inward projecting rib.

72. (Previously Presented) The base of claim 51 wherein the second inward projecting rib extends into the bottom.

73. (Previously Presented) The base of claim 51 wherein the first and second inward projecting ribs extend into the bottom, the first inward projecting rib extending further into the bottom than the second inward projecting rib.

74. (Previously Presented) A base for a food container, comprising:  
a bottom having a periphery; and  
a side wall upwardly extending around the periphery of the bottom, the side wall defining an interior of the base, the side wall including  
a plurality of first rib units formed in the side wall upwardly extending from the bottom, each of the plurality of first rib units including a first outward projecting rib extending away from the interior and a first inward projecting rib extending towards the interior, the first inward projecting rib being shorter than the first outward projecting rib, the first inward projecting rib being narrower than the first outward projecting rib; and

a plurality of second rib units formed in the side wall upwardly extending from the bottom, at least one of the plurality of second rib units being disposed adjacent one of the plurality of first rib units, each of the plurality of second rib units including a second inward projecting rib extending towards the interior, the second inward projecting rib being shorter than the first inward projecting rib.

75. (Previously Presented) The base of claim 74 wherein the first inward projecting rib is formed within the first outward projecting rib.

76. (Previously Presented) The base of claim 74 wherein the first outward projecting rib extends into the bottom.

77. (Previously Presented) The base of claim 74 wherein the first inward projecting rib extends into the bottom.

78. (Previously Presented) The base of claim 74 wherein the first outward projecting rib is disposed at a first angle relative to a vertical axis and the first inward projecting rib is disposed at a second angle relative to the vertical axis, the first angle and the second angle being unequal.

79. (Previously Presented) The base of claim 78 wherein the second angle is greater than the first angle.

80. (Previously Presented) The base of claim 74 wherein the first outward extending rib is at a first depth in the side wall and the first inward extending rib is at a second depth in the side wall, said first depth is different than said second depth.

81. (Previously Presented) The base of claim 74 wherein the outward projecting rib extends into the bottom a first distance and the first inward projecting rib extends into the bottom a second distance, the first distance being greater than the second distance.

82. (Previously Presented) The base of claim 74 wherein the first outward projecting rib and the first inward projecting rib extend into the bottom, the depth of the first inward projecting rib extending into the bottom being greater than the depth of the first outward projecting rib extending into the bottom.

83. (Previously Presented) The base of claim 74 wherein the first outward projecting rib extends to a first height in the side wall and the first inward projecting rib extends to a second height in the side wall, the first height exceeding the second height.

84. (Previously Presented) The base of claim 74 wherein the side wall is disposed at an angle ranging from about 5° to about 44° relative to a vertical axis.

85. (Previously Presented) The base of claim 74 wherein the first inward projecting rib is disposed at a first angle relative to a vertical axis and second inward projecting rib is disposed at second angle relative to the vertical axis, the first angle being different than the second angle.

86. (Previously Presented) The base of claim 74 further comprising a plurality of third rib units formed in the side wall upwardly extending from the bottom, each of the plurality of third rib units being positioned adjacent one of the plurality of second rib units, each of the plurality of third rib units including a second outward projecting rib extending away from the interior and a third inward projecting rib extending towards the interior, the second outward projecting rib being shorter than the first outward projecting rib.

87. (Previously Presented) The base of claim 86 wherein the third inward projecting rib is formed within the second outward projecting rib.

88. (Previously Presented) The base of claim 86 wherein the second outward projecting rib extends into the bottom.

89. (Previously Presented) The base of claim 86 wherein the third inward projecting rib extends into the bottom.

90. (Previously Presented) The base of claim 86 wherein the second outward projecting rib is disposed at a first angle relative to a vertical axis and the third inward projecting rib is disposed at a second angle relative to the vertical axis, the first angle being unequal to the second angle.

91. (Previously Presented) The base of claim 90 wherein the second angle is greater than the first angle.

92. (Previously Presented) The base of claim 86 wherein the second outward projecting rib is disposed at third depth in the side wall and the third inward projecting rib is disposed at a fourth depth in the side wall, the third depth being different than the fourth depth.

93. (Previously Presented) The base of claim 86 wherein the second outward projecting rib and the third inward projecting rib extend into the bottom, the second outward projecting rib extending into the bottom farther than the third inward projecting rib.

94. (Previously Presented) The base of claim 93 wherein the height of the third inward projecting rib in the bottom is greater than the height of the second outward projecting rib in the bottom.

95. (Previously Presented) The base of claim 86 wherein the second outward projecting rib extends a first vertical distance up the side wall and the third inward projecting rib extends a second vertical distance up the side wall, the first vertical distance being greater than the second vertical distance.

96. (Previously Presented) The base of claim 74 wherein the second inward projecting rib extends into the bottom.

97. (Previously Presented) The base of claim 74 wherein the first and second inward projecting ribs extend into the bottom, the first inward projecting rib extending further into the bottom than the second inward projecting rib.

98. (Previously Presented) A base for a food container, comprising:  
a bottom having a periphery;  
a side wall attached to the bottom, the side wall upwardly extending from the periphery of the bottom and defining an interior of the base;  
a plurality of generally-upwardly-extending first rib units formed in the side wall, the plurality of first rib units extending from the side wall into the bottom a first distance, each of the first rib units including a first outward rib projecting away from the interior and a first inward rib projecting towards the interior; and  
a plurality of generally-upwardly-extending second rib units formed in the side wall, at least one of the second rib units being disposed adjacent at least one of the first rib units, each of the second rib units extending from the side wall into the bottom a second distance, the second distance being less than the first distance, each of the second rib units including a second inward rib projecting towards the interior.

99. (Previously Presented) The base of claim 98 wherein the first outward rib extends into the bottom a distance greater than the first inward rib, and wherein the first inward rib extends into the bottom a distance greater than the second inward rib.

100. (Currently Amended) The base of claim 98 wherein the first outward rib is longer than the first inward rib, and wherein the first inward rib is longer than the second inward rib.

101. (Previously Presented) The base of claim 98 wherein the first inward rib is formed within the first outward rib.



102. (Previously Presented) The base of claim 98 wherein the first inward rib is narrower than the first outward rib.

103. (Previously Presented) The base of claim 98 wherein the first outward rib is disposed at a first angle relative to a vertical axis and the first inward rib is disposed at a second angle relative to the vertical axis, the first angle and the second angle being unequal.

104. (Previously Presented) The base of claim 98 wherein the second angle is greater than the first angle.

105. (Previously Presented) The base of claim 98 wherein the first outward rib has a first depth in the side wall and the first inward rib is at a second depth in the side wall, said first depth is different than said second depth.

106. (Previously Presented) The base of claim 98 wherein the first outward rib extends to a first height in the side wall and the first inward rib extends to a second height in the side wall, the first height exceeding the second height.

107. (Previously Presented) The base of claim 98 wherein the first inward rib is disposed at a first angle relative to a vertical axis and second inward rib is disposed at second angle relative to the vertical axis, the first angle being different than the second angle.

108. (Previously Presented) The base of claim 98 further comprising a plurality of generally-upwardly-extending third rib units formed in the side wall, each of the plurality of third rib units being positioned adjacent one of the plurality of second rib units, each of the plurality of third rib units extending from the side wall into the bottom a third distance, the third distance being greater than the second distance and less than the first

distance, the third rib units including a second outward rib projecting away from the interior and a third inward rib projecting towards the interior.

109. (Currently Amended) The base of claim 108 wherein the third inward rib is formed within the second outward rib.

110. (Previously Presented) The base of claim 108 wherein the third inward rib is narrower than the second outward rib.

111. (Canceled)

112. (Previously Presented) The base of claim 108 wherein the third inward rib is shorter than the second outward rib.

113. (Previously Presented) The base of claim 108 wherein the third rib unit is shorter than the first rib unit.

114. (Previously Presented) The base of claim 108 wherein the third rib unit is longer than the second rib unit.

115. (Previously Presented) The base of claim 108 wherein the second outward rib is disposed at an first angle relative to a vertical axis and the third inward rib is disposed at a second angle relative to the vertical axis, the first angle being unequal to the second angle.

116. (Previously Presented) The base of claim 115 wherein the second angle is greater than the first angle.

117. (Previously Presented) The base of claim 108 wherein the second outward rib is disposed at third depth in the side wall and the third inward rib is disposed at a fourth depth in the side wall, the third depth being different than the fourth depth.

118. (Previously Presented) The base of claim 108 wherein the second outward rib extends a first vertical distance up the side wall and the third inward rib extends a second vertical distance up the side wall, the first vertical distance being greater than the second vertical distance.